

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03507 01 OF 02 081704Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAI-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 /084 W

----- 044321

R 081440Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 917

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 3507

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PGOV, UR

SUBJECT: THE 25TH CONGRESS: THE FINAL THREE DAYS

REF: MOSCOW 3499,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03507 01 OF 02 081704Z

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 3 BROUGHT THE CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSION OF KOSYGIN'S ECONOMIC REPORT, AFTER A FULL DAY OF SPEECHES--HIGH-LIGHTED BELOW--BY PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE CONGRESS PRESUMABLY MET IN CLOSED SESSION MARCH 4 TO SELECT THE NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE. ON MARCH 5 THE CONGRESS CONVENED TO HEAR THE RESULTS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY'S "ELECTIONS," RECESSED WHILE THE NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE "ELECTED" THE POLITBURO AND SECRETARIAT, THEN RECONVENED TO HEAR BREZHNEV ANNOUNCE THE COMPOSITION OF THE RULING BODIES AND TO DELIVER A BRIEF CONCLUDING SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SPEECHES DELIVERED ON MARCH 3--AND PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA MARCH 4 AND 5--MERCIFULLY CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION OF KOSYGIN'S MARCH 1 ECONOMIC REPORT. THE SPEECHES FOLLOWED THE PATTERN SET DURING THE EARLIER DISCUSSION OF BREZHNEV'S CC REPORT: PRAISE AND APPROVAL OF BREZHNEV'S REPORT, PRAISE FOR BREZHNEV PERSONALLY, THEN MENTION OF PARTICULAR ATTAINMENTS AND PROBLEMS. THE SPEAKERS INCLUDED: USSR MINISTERS OF CONSTRUCTION OF HEAVY INDUSTRY ENTERPRISES, OF EDUCATION, LIGHT INDUSTRY, AND MACHINE TOOL AND TOOL BUILDING INDUSTRY; PARTY SECRETARIES FROM SARATOV, THE BURYAT ASSR, DAGESTAN, KRASNOYARSK, AND BELGOROD; AND SEVERAL RANK AND FILE CPSU MEMBERS.

3. OF INTEREST IN THE SPEECHES OF THE MINISTERS:

--MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION OF HEAVY INDUSTRY ENTERPRISES N. V. GOLDIN DEPARTED FROM THE NORM BY PRAISING KOSYGIN'S SPEECH AND BY PLUGGING THE KOSYGIN THEME OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MATERIAL INCENTIVES FOR PLAN FULFILLMENT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED SHORTCOMING IN HIS MINISTRY'S WORK BUT IN TURN CRITICIZED INADEQUATE CENTRAL PLANNING AND INSUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF BUILDING MATERIALS;

--MINISTER OF EDUCATION PROKOF'YEV WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO LAUD BREZHNEV, IN PARTICULAR BY QUOTING THE "WISE ADVICE" OF LEONID ILICH REGARDING PIVOTAL THEMES FOR SOVIET EDUCATION (THE ACTIVITIES OF LENIN, THE TRADITIONS OF THE CPSU, ETC.). HE CLAIMED THAT THE USSR HAD THE HIGHEST LEVEL "OF EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG GENERATION" IN THE WORLD, AND THAT ALL SOVIET PEOPLES RECEIVED AN "APPROXIMATELY EQUAL" LEVEL OF EDUCATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03507 01 OF 02 081704Z

--MINISTER OF LIGHT INDUSTRY N.N. TARASOV, REPRESENTING AN ECONOMIC SECTOR WHICH RECEIVED ONLY BRICKBATS AT THE CONGRESS, ALTERNATIVELY DEFENDED HIS MINISTRY'S PAST PERFORMANCE AND PROMISED TO PRODUCE MORE OF EVERYTHING IN THE FUTURE, IN LARGER VARIETY AND BETTER QUALITY. ACKNOWLEDGING "SHARP, JUSTIFIED CRITICISM," TARASOV SPOKE HOPEFULLY OF INTRODUCING NEW EQUIPMENT AND REORGANIZING PROCEDURES TO ATTAIN IMPROVED QUALITY OF CONSUMER GOODS AND EVEN TO "CREATE CONDITIONS FOR PREDICTING FASHIONS 2-3 YEARS IN

ADVANCE." HOWEVER, HIS RELIANCE ON INCREASED LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND BLEAK REFERENCE TO A "LIMITED LABOR SUPPLY" SUGGESTED THAT THE LIGHT INDUSTRY SECTOR STILL LACKED THE PRIORITIES NECESSARY FOR DRAMATIC RESULTS.

--MINISTER OF THE MACHINE TOOL AND TOOL BUILDING INDUSTRY A.I. KOSTOUSOV'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY PROVIDED A FAMILIAR MIX OF ACHIEVEMENTS, SHORTCOMINGS, AND FUTURE CHALLENGES. HE ASSURED THE CONGRESS THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS DEVELOPING DESIGNS OF MACHINE TOOLS WHOSE SPECIFICATIONS WOULD BE EQUAL OR SUPERIOR TO THE EQUIVALENT FOREIGN PRODUCT.

4. THE PARTY SECRETARIES MADE THE FOLLOWING NOTEWORTHY COMMENTS:

--FIRST SECRETARY OF THE SARATOVSKIY OKBOM A.I. SHIBAYEV DULY NOTED BREZHNEV'S 1973 VISIT TO SARATOV, PLUGGED THE PEACE PROGRAM AND THE MARCH 1965 CC PLENUM ON AGRICULTURE, AND CRITICIZED INDUSTRY AND THE SCIENCE FOR INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO LAND RECLAMATION AND IRRIGATION;

--FIRST SECRETARY OF THE BURYATSKIY OBKOM A.U. MODOGOYEV STRESSED THE NEED FOR MULTIBRANCH COORDINATION IN THE CREATION OF TERRITORIAL PRODUCTION COMPLEXES AND CRITICIZED SEVERAL CENTRAL MINISTRIES FOR THEIR DISINTEREST IN THIS APPROACH. HE ALSO HIT HARD AT THE CHINESE, STATING THE THE PEKING LEADERSHIP DID NOT HIDE ITS DESIRE TO SEIZE SOVIET TERRITORY EAST OF LAKE BAYKAL BUT HAD BETTER BE MINDFUL OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JAPANESE WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO REALIZE SIMILAR AMBITIONS.

--FIRST SECRETARY OF THE DAGESTAN OBKOM M.S. UMAKHANOV PRAISED THE PARTY'S STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE THE PURITY OF MARXISM-LENINISM IN THE FACE OF ASSAULT BY INTERNATIONAL REVISIONISM--ESPECIALLY MAOISM. DESCRIBING THE EFFECTS OF COMMUNIST RULE ON DAGESTAN AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 03507 01 OF 02 081704Z

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NINTH PLAN, HE QUOTED A DAGESTANI POET: "THE BLIND ACQUIRED SIGHT; THE DEAF--THEIR HEARING; THE NAKED--FUR GARMENTS; THOSE WHO WERE COLD--THE SUN; THE AGED--BECAME YOUNG." TURNING TO THE SOVIET NATIONALITY POLICY, HE TESTIFIED TO ITS SUCCESS AND THE GENEROSITY OF THE GREAT RUSSIAN PEOPLE--DAGESTAN'S ELDER BROTHER--IN THE CONTEXT OF EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE AID DAGESTAN RECEIVED DURING TWO SEVERE EARTHQUAKES. THE OBKOM, HE NOTED, REMAINED VIGILANT AGAINST ANY MANIFESTATION OF "NATIONAL EXCLUSIVITY AND REMNANTS OF LOCALISM." UMAKHANOV ALSO DESCRIBED THE POTENTIAL OF DAGESTAN'S CASPIAN SEA COAST AS A RESORT AREA WHICH, IF DEVELOPED, COULD PROVIDE RECREATION AND HEALTH FACILITIES FOR 200,000 PEOPLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03507 02 OF 02 081746Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ISO-00 SAM-01 SAI-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 /084 W

----- 044933

R 081440Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 918

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 3507

--FIRST SECRETARY OF THE KRASNOYARSK KRAYKOM P.S. FEDIRKO SPOKE
WITH PRIDE AS A BOOSTER OF RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE FUTURE
POTENTIAL HIS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING PART OF SIBERIA. ALL DIFFICULTIES
--WHETHER CAUSED BY LOCAL SHORTCOMINGS, OR THE INADEQUATE PER-
FORMANCE OF CENTRAL ORGANS, OR THE NEED FOR BETTER COORDINATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03507 02 OF 02 081746Z

IN DEVELOPING BALANCED COMPLEXES OF POWER, INDUSTRY, MINING AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION-- SERVED FOR FEDIRKO AS JUSTIFICATIONS AND REASONS FOR GREATER FUTURE EFFORT. HIS LANGUAGE ABOUNDED IN CHAUVINISTIC OVERTONES AND HE WAS ONE OF THE VERY FEW SPEAKERS TO REFER TO THE "WORLD REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS" AND THE GROWING DEFENSIVE MIGHT OF THE SOVIET UNION.

--FIRST SECRETARY OF THE BELGOROD OBLIM M.P. TRUNOV'S REPORT CENTERED ON THE OBLAST'S DISTINCTION OF HAVING ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF RSFSR'S PROVEN IRON ORE RESERVES AND ITS STATUS AS A SITE OF A LARGE AND GROWING IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY. THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES CREATED DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF PROPER COORDINATION OF SEVERAL MINISTRIES: OF FERROUS METALLURGY, HEAVY TRANSPORT MACHINE BUILDING, AND MANY OTHER SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS. ONE OF MANY PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED BY TRUNOV WAS THE SERIOUS LAG BETWEEN CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW STEEL MILL COMPLEXES AND THE PLANNING OF NEW TOWNS WITH THE NECESSARY HOUSING, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AMENITIES.

5. A SPEECH FROM THE MARCH 2 SESSION (WHICH WAS NOT PUBLISHED UNTIL MARCH 4) BY TRADE UNION SECRETARY V.I. PROKHOROV IS WORTH NOTING. PROKHOROV CLAIMED THAT 99 PERCENT OF AMERICAN WORKERS WERE UNIONIZED. THIS, HE SAID, SHOWED THE ADVANTAGE OF SOCIALIST OVER BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY. IN A RARE INDIRECT ALLUSION TO KHRUSHCHEV, PROKHOROV SAID THAT BREZHNEV'S NAME WAS ASSOCIATED WITH ELIMINATION OF "SUBJECTIVISM AND VOLUNTARISM."

6. A DEGREE OF SUSPENSE DEVELOPED AMONG WESTERN OBSERVERS MARCH 4, WHEN THE ONLY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE CONGRESS WAS A BRIEF TASS ITEM THAT "THE 25TH CONGRESS CONTINUED ITS WORK IN THE KREMLIN PALACE OF CONGRESSES AND PROCEEDED TO CONSIDERATION OF THE NEXT POINT ON ITS AGENDAS--ELECTION OF CENTRAL PARTY ORGANS. PRESUMABLY THE CONGRESS MET IN CLOSED SESSION TO GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF ELECTING A NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ALTHOUGH ONLY HALF A DAY WAS DEVOTED TO THIS AT THE 24TH CONGRESS. THERE WAS NO TELEVISED RECAP OF THE SESSION. TELEVISION DID COVER A GALA MUSICAL CONCERT WHICH BEGAN AT 7:00 P.M. THAT EVENING AND WAS ATTENDED BY ALL THE PARTY LEADERSHIP (INCLUDING POLYANSKIY, WHO WAS TO BE DROPPED FROM THE POLITBURO THE NEXT DAY).

7. TWO MEETINGS OF THE CONGRESS WERE HELD THE MORNING OF MARCH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03507 02 OF 02 081746Z

5. AT THE FIRST (ACCORDING TO PRAVDA MARCH 6), USTINOV, WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE VOTE-COUNTING COMMISSION, ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF THE VOTING FOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE CENTRAL AUDITING COMMISSION. THE CONGRESS THEN RECESSED, DURING WHICH TIME THE

NEW CC HELD ITS FIRST PLENUM TO "ELECT THE POLITBURO AND SECRETARIAT. AT THE FINAL MEETING, WHICH CONVENED AT ABOUT 1:00 P.M., BREZHNEV READ OUT THE NAMES OF THE NEW POLITBURO AND SECRETARIAT MEMBERS WHO, HE SAID, WERE ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. ALTHOUGH PRAVDA'S ACCOUNT SHOWS APPLAUSE AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EACH POLITBURO AND SECRETARIAT MEMBER, LIVE TV COVERAGE OF THE EVENT LEFT NO DOUBT THAT ASIDE FROM BREZHNEV (STORMY, PROLONGED APPLAUSE), KOSYGIN RECEIVED STRONG (AND APPARENTLY SPONTANEOUS) APPLAUSE; KUNAYEV, PODGORNYY, ROMANOV, SUSLOV, USTINOV AND SHCHERBITSKIY RECEIVED SHORT BUT SUBSTANTIAL BURST; AND PEL'SHE A SMATTERING. OF THE CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER, ALIYEV, MASHEROV, AND RASHIDOV RECEIVED BRIEF APPLUASE. THE OTHER NAMES WERE GREETED WITH SILENCE.

9. BREZHNEV SEEMED IN GOOD FORM AS HE DELIVERED HIS BRIEF, UPBEAT CONCLUDING SPEECH. AS THE CONGRESS ENDED, ALL DELEGATES ROSE TO SING THE INTERNATIONALE. THE TV CAMERA PANNED DOWN THE LINE OF POLITBURO MEMBERS, SHOWING A GRIM-LOOKING POLYSNSKIY STANDING AT RIGID ATTENTION AT HIS NORMAL PLACE ON THE DAIS, BRAVELY SINGING WHAT MY BE BE HIS SWAN SONG.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, COMMUNISTS, PARTY MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW03507
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760087-0598
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760384/aaaacwmy.tel
Line Count: 299
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 3499
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE 25TH CONGRESS: THE FINAL THREE DAYS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PGOV, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006